REMARKS

Claims 1-5 were examined and rejected under 102(a) based on English. Claims 1 and 3-5 and the specification were subject to objections based on informalities. Claims 1-5 have been amended. Claims 6-9 are new, and are supported by pages 41-48 of the specification. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The presently claimed invention distinguishes English because it is distributed, and not reliant on special-purpose devices such as a positioning network. The technique of identifying positions of access points and controlling those access points through a central server is now well known. English, for example, teaches that the position network (1002) uses reference impulse radio units (1016) and a net controller (1018) to calculate positions via triangulation and control the network. (paragraph 0167). Some of the shortcomings of that solution are that it does not scale well, it creates a single point of failure, and it requires new, special-purpose devices. In contrast, the presently claimed technique enables the wireless device itself to participate in configuration decisions. For example, the wireless device determines whether to attempt to change associations between access points based on factors such as distance indicated by signal strength. Claim 1 therefore distinguishes English by reciting "ascertaining, **by the wireless device**, whether the wireless device should attempt to associate with an alternative access point operating on a second channel, the ascertaining based at least in-part on signal strengths of transmissions from the current and alternative access points." (emphasis added) Claims 2-5 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention, and which are allowable for the same reason as claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-5 based on English is therefore requested.

With regard to the informalities, the corrections to the specification and claims are self-explanatory. However, Applicant has declined to add the limitation that "x" and "y" are integers in claim 4 since this is unnecessarily limiting. In particular, the technique might be implemented with non-integer values.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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